

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6803

S E C R E T AMMAN 0503

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING - JORDANIAN-US RELATIONS

1. I HAVE JUST COME FROM SEEING KING ON SUBJECT OF HAWK FINANCING. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE HE IS CLEARLY PLEASED BY CLARIFICATION OF OUR POSITION WHICH I WAS ABLT TO GIVE HIM AND BY OUR FLEX-IBILITY.

2. NEAR THE END OF OUR TALK HE TOLD ME THAT HE IS DEEPLY DEPRESSED AT THE MOMENT BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE GROWING AMERICAN INABILITY TO MEET THE SOVIET CHALLENGE AROUND THE WORLD. HE SAID HE FELT THAT SOVIETS WERE GOING TO HAVE A FIELD DAY AT US EXPENSE THROUGHOUT THE ELECTION YEAR IF WE REMAINED CONSISTENTLY INCAPABLE OF TAKING STRONG ACTION IN OUR OWN INTEREST. HE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO ANGOLA, BUT SAID HE WAS EVEN MORE CONCERNED CLOSER TO HOME. I ASKED HIM IF HE WERE FEELING ANY PARTICULAR SOVIET PRESSURE APPLIED NOW TO JORDAN. (I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP TO REMIND HIM IN THIS WAY THAT HIS OWN FLIRTATION WITH MOSCOW WAS NOT ADDING TO THE STABILITY IN THE AREA.) HE DID NOT PICK ME UP ON IT AT FIRST. HE LATER RETURNED TO THE POINT BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN UNDER ANY PRESSURE, BUT DID NOT EXPECT TO FEEL ANY WHILE HIS AIR FORCE TEAM WAS IN MOSCOW. HE THEN GAVE ME SOME DETAILS OF THE TEAM WHICH WE ALREADY HAD BEEN UNILATERALLY INFORMED ABOUT, INCLUDING FACT THAT HIS AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF WAS LEADING THE TEAM. HE PROMISED HE

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WOULD BE IN TOUCH WHEN THE TEAM GETS BACK. ON THE ONE HAND HE

PROFESSES REAL FEAR THAT SOVIET ADVANCES AROUND THE WORLD
POSE A MAJOR DANGER TO ALL OF US, WHILE ON THE OTHER HE DOES NOT
SEEM OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN FLIRTATION WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. KING POINTED OUT COMPARISON BETWEEN WAY WE HANDLED SOVIETS IN
OCTOBER 1973 IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND IN CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS AND
THE APPROACH WE ARE TAKING ON ANGOLA. HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE
ABLE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR THIS AREA AFTER
OUR VETO AND THAT THE ELECTION ISSUE WOULD NOT PARALYZE ALL
FOREIGN POLICY ACTIVITY IN THE US. I ASSURED HIM IN THE SENSE
OF MY TALKING POINTS USED ON MY RETURN FROM WASHINGTON EARLIER
THIS MONTH THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING PARALYSIS SET IN.

4. I HAVE REVIEWED THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN PARA 6 REFTTEL
FOLLOWING ON MY TALK WITH THE KING. I WOULD URGE THAT WE TRY
SERIOUSLY TO MOVE WITH ALL THREE, WITH FOLLOWING PROVISIO -
ANY MESSAGE ON THE RABIN TALKS SHOULD BE SENT ONLY IF IT CAN
STRIKE A SUBSTANTIVE AND AS FAR AS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO
POSITIVE NOTE. GENERAL BRIEFINGS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE WOULD BE
BETTER NOT SENT.

5. SUBJECT PARA 5 REFTTEL NOT RAISED IN OUR TALKS.
PICKERING

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